

a youth leader and communion stewardess. Andrea is also a member of the Yazoo City Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta and appreciates the opportunity to have a positive impact on the community through activities sponsored by the sorority.

Ms. Rucker's philosophy on teaching can be drawn from Romans 12:6–9 which speaks of a variety of gifts that may be given to each of us. She believes that if one has been given the gift to teach, that person must teach well.

Having had countless examples of top notched, no-nonsense educators, including her mother, Ms. Rucker strives every day to teach well while remembering this quote from Henri Frédéric Amiel which states, "The highest function of the teacher consists not so much in imparting knowledge as in stimulating the pupil in its love and pursuit."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Andrea Rucker for her dedication to her community.

**CONGRATULATING THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS RODRIGO COUNCIL, NO. 44 ON THE CELEBRATION OF THEIR 125TH ANNIVERSARY**

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 13, 2013*

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, It gives me great pleasure to rise today to join the many who have gathered this evening in celebration of the 125th Anniversary of the Rodrigo Council, No. 44—one of the original Councils of the Knights of Columbus. Described as the "strong right arm of the Church," Councils have long been an extension not only of the fraternal order, but of the Catholic Church as well. Today, Rodrigo Council focuses its effort in service of the needs of St. Bernadette's Church, St. Bernadette School, the parishioners, the local community and charitable organizations across the country.

As you may know, the Knights of Columbus was formed when a group of men, called together by Father Michael J. McGivney in the basement of St. Mary's Church in New Haven, Connecticut, vowed to defend their country, their families, and their faith. With strength in solidarity, security in their unity of purpose, and devotion to their cause, the Knights of Columbus has grown into the world's largest Catholic family fraternal service organization.

Just a few short years following the establishment of the Knights, membership had grown at such a rate that additional Council's were established. On June 6, 1888 the Rodrigo Council No. 44 was established. Welcoming any man, aged eighteen or older, of Catholic faith, this Live Council continues to thrive today. In addition to their support of St. Bernadette's and the parish school, members dedicate much of their time to raising funds to support social and civic services throughout the community. Just this year alone their annual banquet will benefit Mount St. John's, a residential treatment facility for at-risk young men; Emergency Shelter Services, a shelter for homeless men; The Camp, a summer camp for inner-city youth in New Haven; Life Haven, a temporary shelter for homeless preg-

nant women and women with children; Farnam Neighborhood House, a thriving multi-service neighborhood center which provides a continuum of services for people of all ages; and a local family in need of financial assistance because of an illness.

The strength of any community lies within the willingness of its members to make a difference. Over the course of its 125-year history, the members of Rodrigo Council No. 44 have exemplified community service. Through their faith and their commitment, they have enriched the lives of others and made our community a better place for our families to live, learn, and grow. Today, as they celebrate their 125th Anniversary—a remarkable milestone by any measure—I am honored to stand today and extend my deepest thanks and appreciation to their members, past and present, for their invaluable contributions. They have set a standard of service to which we should all strive.

**CONGRATULATING SCRIPP'S NATIONAL SPELLING BEE SEMI-FINALIST, ALIA ABIAD**

**HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 13, 2013*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Alia Abiad, who recently participated in the Scripp's National Spelling Bee.

Alia Abiad is a 7th Grader from McClure Junior High School, and a resident of my hometown of Western Springs, IL. In addition to being a skilled tennis player and violinist for the Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestra, her recent performances in local and national Spelling Bees have demonstrated that she is a driven, exemplary student.

Alia diligently practices her spelling independently and with her parents every day. She also gains her edge by reading books intended for an audience well beyond her age.

Alia initially won the title of best speller at McClure Junior High, and then went on to win the Cook County Spelling Bee. In these competitions, she maintained a perfect record, spelling every word correctly.

Most recently, she competed alongside 280 of America's top spellers in the Scripp's National Spelling Bee in Washington, DC. She advanced to the semi-finals, correctly spelling 'peccadillo,' 'quiddity,' and 'hypnopompic,' before her run ended.

Alia's achievements are a reminder of how preparation, practice, and perseverance produce solid results, even when facing difficult challenges. I call on all my colleagues to join me in congratulating Alia Abiad, and her parents, for her tremendous accomplishments, and her commendable performance in the Scripp's National Spelling Bee.

**THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF WEST VIRGINIA'S CASS SCENIC RAILROAD STATE PARK**

**HON. NICK J. RAHALL II**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 13, 2013*

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, this month marks the 50th Anniversary of West Virginia's

Cass Scenic Railroad State Park. Anyone who has ridden the eleven miles of rail in this unique concept for a park in my home State can attest to its instant attraction and appeal on so many fronts. Bundled in those few short miles are a multifaceted story of industrial might and hardworking souls that combined to make a significant contribution to the Nation's logging and lumber history. Rail enthusiasts will enjoy historical steam powered locomotives, a switchback track system to assist the trains in conquering steep elevations, and the remaining vestiges of past equipment used along the rail. Everyone will enjoy the scenic bliss and wonder of the natural beauty in which this relatively small short line, but prospering railroad is nestled in Pocahontas County.

What began with lots of hope, but little publicity, drew an extraordinary maiden seasonal crowd of 23,000 interested visitors fifty years ago to this majestic mountain and manmade wonder. Set in the midst of the State of West Virginia's Centennial year of celebration, skepticism surrounded future success.

However, since those early days, Cass has not only endured, it has prevailed as a magnet for the region's economy. Many heads, hands and hearts have been instrumental in the growth Cass has enjoyed over the last five decades.

First and foremost, there is a small contingent of dedicated and experienced Cass employees who deserve several trainloads of thanks for keeping the trains moving up and down the mountain. They are a talented bunch. Faced with broken or worn out train parts, parts not stocked nor even manufactured in decades, they set about the task at hand. Applying their honed skills and sheer ingenuity, without benefit of blueprints or plans, for 50 years day in and day out, they have kept history alive.

Perhaps no more enthusiastic group of individuals has devoted greater labors of love than the members of the Mountain State Railroad & Logging Historical Association. From sizeable restoration projects to tender loving care of collective memories of life in yesteryear, these essential partners are key to Cass's lifeblood. Operating Railfan Weekend each spring, the crew draws from the deep roots that extend from its debut weekend in 1965, but with every new year, they offer visitors something new and unique to reward their trek. And, certainly, they play a more than significant role in keeping the ever evolving horizon of West Virginia's most unique state park on track.

Mr. Speaker, I offer hearty congratulations to all those who have and are taking part in a fifty year journey that continues to gather steam and glory to celebrate an important chapter in our country's past. May the lessons preserved from our past continue to help guide our next half century. And may the chorus of Cass's steam whistles always sound a welcoming note for the Nation to pay Cass Scenic Railroad a visit.

HONORING WASHINGTON STATE  
TROOPER SEAN O'CONNELL

**HON. DAVID G. REICHERT**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 13, 2013*

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of Washington State Trooper Sean O'Connell. Trooper O'Connell was respected by both community and colleagues, and deeply loved by his family and friends. His life was cut tragically short when he was struck by a truck while redirecting traffic on his motorcycle near the site of the 1–5 bridge collapse. He was 38 years old and left behind a wife and a young son and daughter.

His memorial service, held last Thursday, was attended by thousands. Officers and troopers came from across the United States and even Canada to honor him. Washington State Patrol Chief John Batiste called Trooper O'Connell a "tremendous human being" who "exemplified service with humility." This husband, father, and friend cannot be replaced, but his sacrifice will always be remembered and his legacy of compassion and service will live on after him. He is gone but not forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, I salute Trooper Sean O'Connell, badge 1076, and I thank him for all he gave back to the people of Washington State.

HONORING DIANNE J. TAYLOR

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 13, 2013*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Dianne J. Taylor, an employee of the Mississippi Department of Human Services for over twenty years.

The opportunity to become a civil servant of any branch of the government is a great privilege to be able to serve the American people. Dianne graduated from Troy State University in 1993 with her B.S. Degree in Resource Management and shortly afterwards she began her career with the Mississippi Department of Human Services in that same year.

In an effort to build upon her academic training and hands on learning within the agency, Dianne returned to school and received her MBA from Delta State University in 2004. During this entire time, she maintained her employment as a case manager in Tallahatchie County where she administers the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. This program is designed to help single parents become self-sufficient so that they can transition off of public assistance.

Dianne has all intentions of retiring as a civil servant employee, realizing the opportunity given to her twenty years ago has been not only more than a privilege but rewarding by allowing her to help others in need.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Dianne J. Taylor for her longevity and dedication to helping others as an employee of the Mississippi Department of Health and Human Services.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT  
OF JOHN RECORDS

**HON. JARED HUFFMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 13, 2013*

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize John Records, who is transitioning from his position as Executive Director of the Committee on the Shelterless (COTS) after 21 years of tireless work providing services for the homeless and at-risk in Petaluma, California.

Since he joined the staff of COTS in 1998, John has provided the vision and management that has enabled COTS to serve more than 20,000 people with a wide range of services, including food, shelter, counseling and career coaching.

John is a national leader in taking a comprehensive approach to ending and preventing homelessness by providing services for the whole person. Through a partnership with the University of New York at Albany School of Social Welfare, John has enabled organizations across the country to learn from the COTS approach to serving its customers.

John has helped make Petaluma a welcoming community that supports its residents throughout times of need and crisis.

The residents of California's Second District are better off today thanks to the work of John Records. As he moves on, I want to express my deep appreciation for his dedication and contributions to the people of Sonoma County, and convey my best wishes for a long and happy future.

IN HONOR OF MILLER COUNTY  
SHERIFF H.E. "BUDDY" GLASS

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 13, 2013*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart and solemn remembrance that I rise today to pay tribute to a great man and outstanding Sheriff of Miller County, Georgia, H.E. "Buddy" Glass. Sadly, Sheriff Glass passed away on June 8, 2013. Funeral services will be held on Thursday, June 13, 2013 at 4:00 p.m. at First Baptist Church in Colquitt, Georgia.

Since he was elected in 1996, Sheriff Glass has served the citizens of Miller County, Georgia with devotion and distinction. Elected to a fifth term last year as chief law enforcement officer responsible for patrolling and responding to calls within the 284 square mile area of Miller County with a population of over 6,000 people, Sheriff Glass has proven to be a strong and revered leader. A great number of challenges come with a position of this caliber, exacerbated by the fact that much of this rural Southwest Georgia County is composed of unpaved roads and farmland. Sheriff Glass handled these challenges with efficiency and success.

Sheriff Glass was employed with the Miller County Sheriff's Office for more than 31 years. As Sheriff, he spearheaded the inmate work program, which has saved thousands of taxpayer dollars in garbage collection, land-

scaping efforts, and assistance with public functions in the city. He also oversaw the Miller County Operation Pill Drop, a program where citizens of the county turn in unwanted and unneeded prescription medications to keep them from falling into the wrong hands. In addition, Sheriff Glass approved an initiative to have the trustees of the Miller County Jail help distribute food from the local food bank.

In 2008, the Georgia Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, an agency of the Department of Defense, honored the Miller County Sheriff's Office with an "Above and Beyond" award in recognition of the Office's outstanding support of its employees who serve in the National Guard and Reserve.

Maya Angelou once said, "A great soul serves everyone all the time. A great soul never dies." Sheriff Glass is undoubtedly great because of his distinguished service to his community, devotion to his work, and the compassion he showed for his friends and loved ones.

Sheriff Glass is survived by his wife, Rita; children, Bo, Steven, Robert, Wendy, Danielle and Linda; one sister, Myrtle; and twelve grandchildren. He was a member of Flat Creek Baptist Church in Colquitt, Georgia.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to Sheriff H.E. "Buddy" Glass and his legacy of service to Miller County, Georgia. He loved the people of Miller County and he was committed to making that community safer to live in and to improving the quality of life. He will truly be missed.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF  
WILLIAM ZURKEY FROM AVON  
LAKE HIGH SCHOOL

**HON. MARCY KAPTUR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 13, 2013*

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in order to recognize Mr. William G. Zurkey who has recently retired after thirty-six years as a music teacher, the last twenty-six which have been at Avon Lake High School in Avon Lake, Ohio. Having spent his career in education and inspiring our youth, I am beyond privileged to celebrate his career.

William Zurkey holds a bachelor of Music Education from Bowling Green State University, a Master's degree in Music from Cleveland State University, and has completed course work in his doctoral studies at Kent State University. His impressive academic résumé is indicative of the immense skill and dedication William brought to his job.

The communities of Avon Lake, Ohio and Cleveland, Ohio know William for being a superior director and musical mind. Over the years, his high school chorales have received numerous awards, garnered state-wide, national and international recognition, and have been invited to perform at Carnegie Hall in New York City three times. In addition to his high school duties, William has served as an adjunct Faculty of Music Education at the Oberlin College Conservatory of Music in Oberlin, Ohio where he directed the Women's Chorale. He has also worked with chorales at the Baldwin-Wallace College Conservatory of Music in Berea, Ohio.